

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10-12 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 6, and 11 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled Claims 4 and 9, and amended Claims 1, 6, and 11.

The Request for Approval to Amend the Drawings filed on March 5, 2003 was approved by the Examiner. Accordingly, formal drawings incorporating the changes presented therein are being submitted herewith.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging in the Office Action that Claims 4 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In lieu of writing those dependent claims in independent form, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to recite the features of Claim 4, and independent Claims 6 and 11 to recite the features of Claim 9.

Applicants note that Claim 4 had been objected to because of an informality. However, the matter giving rise to the objection, has been attended to in connection with the incorporation of that language into Claim 1.

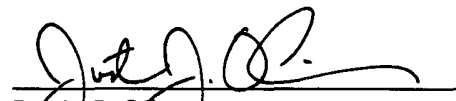
Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,627,565 (Morishita, et al.). Claims 2, 5, 7, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Morishita, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,341,155 (Elrod, et al.). Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Morishita, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,959,805 (Ohouchi,

et al.). Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Morishita, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,114,685 (Sato, et al.).

Because the independent claims now recite subject matter that the Office Action indicates is allowable, Applicants submit that the independent claims are also allowable. Therefore, Applicants believe that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, are moot, and request withdrawal thereof.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Justin J. Oliver
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,986

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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